

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02487 060717Z

12

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 SSO-00 /037 W

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R 051528Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4275

S E C R E T JIDDA 2487

STADIS//////////

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF JIDDA 1885

1. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD HAS REPLIED BY LETTER TO MY MESSAGE (REFTEL) ENQUIRING ABOUT HIS REPORTED PLANS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE AND TO HOLD A MEETING OF THE JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION AT THAT TIME. IN HIS REPLY HE SAYS THAT HE IS NOW TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA IN EARLY JULY. HE ALSO ENDORSES THE SUGGESTION IN MY MESSAGE THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF HE WERE TO COME IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. YOU WILL RECALL THAT IN YOUR SEPTEMBER 2 MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD HE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. IF YOU AGREE THAT A VISIT AT THAT TIME WOULD BE USEFUL, I THINK THAT THE BEST WAYS OF ELICITING AN INVITATION FROM THE SAG, AS WELL AS OF PUTTING THE VISIT IN THE PROPER FRAMEWORK, WOULD BE FOR YOU TO SEND A LETTER TO PRINCE FAHD REFERRING TO YOUR CONVERSATION OF SEPTEMBER 2, 1975 AND SAYING THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO A SAUDI INVITATION IN EARLY JULY.

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3. JULY WOULD PROBABLY BE AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY FOR A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. OUR MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAUDIS HAS SMOOTHED OUT CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT MONTHS AND PARTICULARLY SINCE ROY ATHERTON'S DECEMBER VISIT WHICH CLEARED UP A NUMBER OF TROUBLESOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS. IT DOES NOT NOW SEEM THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD HIT SECRETARY RUMSFLED WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF REQUESTS WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO MEET. THE VISIT COULD THEREFORE TAKE PLACE IN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE WHICH WOULD FURTHER CEMENT OUR COOPERATIVE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: A LETTER TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD
PER PARA 2.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

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